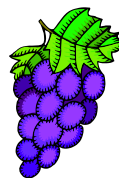


# Grapes



## History

Grapes are one of the oldest fruits known. They have been grown and harvested for over 8000 years. The first grapes are thought to have originated in the area between the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea.



However, grapes were also grown in Egypt. In fact, Egyptian hieroglyphics show wine and wine making. It is also known that early Romans created and cultivated many varieties of grapes.

Grapes native to North America were very sour and could be found growing near stream banks. In 1769, Spanish missionaries brought European grapes to California and planted them. These grapes were used for eating fresh and making raisins and wine. Today, there are different varieties of grapes to make raisins, sell fresh to eat, and to make wine.

## Nature's Candy

Grapes are known as nature's candy because of their sweetness. Unlike candy, grapes are packed with vitamin C and other nutrients that will help you stay healthy.

## Fun facts

- There are more than 50 varieties of grapes grown in California
- There are 3 colors of grapes: red, green, and blue-black
- Concord grapes are native to North America – the only other native fruits are blueberries and cranberries
- Grapes are grown and harvested on all continents except Antarctica
- 97% of all grapes sold in the United States are grown in California
- Italy produces the most grapes in the world
- Grapes don't sweeten after they are picked
- William Wolfskill planted the first grape vineyard in California on land that is now Los Angeles



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